

Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton since February, 2000. The mission comprises four Mini-Missions. Mini Missions-I and II are being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, with respective objectives of 'Research', 'Dissemination of technology to farmers'. Mini Missions-III and IV are being implemented by the Ministry of Textiles with respective objectives of 'Development of marketing infrastructure' and 'Modernisation of ginning and pressing factories'. Under Mini Mission-III, development of 51 market yards have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 73.21 crore and under Mini Mission-IV, modernization of 139 ginning and pressing factories have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 158.79 crore.

(c) and (d) Government proposes to set up a Jute Technology Mission under National Textile Policy, 2000. The Mission is proposed to be launched during the current financial year. A provision of Rs. 5 crore has been made in the budget allocation for 2001-02 under Special Jute Development Fund which takes into account the allocation for the proposed Jute Technology Mission.

The National Textile Policy, 2000 does not specifically ask for a Technology Mission on Wool. However, the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce in their 43rd Report have recommended for launching of a Wool Technology Mission. The Working Group on Textiles and Jute Industry for the Tenth Five Year Plan have also recommended for the same.

Export Growth during the Current Fiscal Years

1194. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the textile sector has achieved an export growth during the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, the achievement during the first six months; and

(c) what target has been fixed for the full year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) During the period April-August 2001, textile exports amounted to

US \$ 4353.8 million as against the exports of US\$ 5263.5 million during the same period of 2000, recording a negative growth of 17.3%.

(c) In view of the current international trade environment, the textile exports during 2001-2002 are targeted to reach a level of US\$ 12,100 million.

Plight of cotton growers

1195. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the plight of cotton growers in various parts of the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, as a result of increased domestic production and at the same time massive imports of cotton;

(b) whether affected States have brought the plight of farmers to the notice of the Government and as a result of which Government would restrict imports of cotton with immediate effect;

(c) if not, the quantum of loss that cotton growers and procurement agencies would suffer; and

(d) the corrective measures being taken and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Production, consumption and import of cotton during the 1999-2000 and 2000-01 cotton seasons are as under:—

(in lakh bales of 170 kg. each)

	1999-2000	2000-2001
Production	156.00	140.00
Import	22.01	16.00
Consumption	173.36	165.00

(b) Expecting a good crop, requests were received from State Governments to increase duty on import of cotton. The